



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

Release No.: NR0810

For Release: February 4, 2008

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Corps returns to ensure safety at Odyssey Middle School

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District returned to Odyssey Middle School in Orlando, Fla. this past weekend, following the Jan. 27th uncovering of a nose cup from a previously detonated incendiary device by a construction worker a week ago. The nose cup had not been previously detected during munitions removal work at the school because it was located about 18 inches underground, close to concrete and metal rebar.

As a result of the nose cup discovery, the Corps' contractors returned to the school this past weekend to remove the remaining concrete and rebar at the broad jump and shot put areas to determine whether potential hazards remained under the concrete. A geophysical survey of the broad jump and shot-put areas was conducted. The following munitions debris was recovered: one nose section of a 23-lb. fragmentation bomb; four 90mm projectiles; five 75mm projectiles; two 20mm projectiles; two 2.36" rocket motors; one 60mm mortar body; two 3.5" rocket motors; six 37mm projectiles and a 4.5" rocket motor. After evaluation by experts in unexploded ordnance, the debris was determined not to pose an explosive hazard or require on-site detonation, and was removed from the school property. The Corps will conduct a follow-up quality assurance process Feb. 9 to confirm that all detectable anomalies were investigated and that munitions or munitions debris was removed.

The work by the Corps and its contractors on Odyssey Middle School grounds is part of a project to clean up the former Pinecastle Jeep Range site, a property used by the Department of Defense for



bombing demonstration and small arms training during World War II. Installation of a temporary fence, a surface sweep and soil sampling confirmed that the school property was safe prior to school opening in August. During subsequent holiday breaks, while school was closed, approximately 2,500 anomalies were investigated. Approximately 14 tons of metal debris and more than 125 munitions determined to pose a potential explosive hazard were subsequently rendered safe on the school property. The total estimated cost for all work on Odyssey Middle School grounds is about \$1 million.

The remainder of the former Pinecastle Jeep Range site will be addressed with a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, beginning in 2008. As part of that effort, additional soil samples will be taken on the school grounds in areas where removals took place to further verify that there are no residual chemical hazards.

Safety is always the Corps' top priority. Should anyone encounter or suspect they have encountered munitions, it is vitally important that they follow the simple "3 Rs" of explosives safety: **Recognize** the item may be dangerous; **Retreat** and do not touch it; **Report** its location to the local Sheriff's Office immediately.

On behalf of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cleans up sites that were formerly used by the military. In 1943, the U.S. government leased 12,483 acres of land in Orlando (Orange County) as an off-post site of the Pinecastle Army Airfield, for use as a gunnery and demonstration range. The site was declared surplus property and all leases were terminated by December 1947.

For more information about the former Pinecastle Jeep Range, please visit our web site at www.saj.usace.army.mil and click on the Pinecastle Jeep Range link or contact the Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1576 or 1-800-291-9413.

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